

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Michael HOUGHTON

Application No.: 09/884,456

Confirmation No.: 1937

Filed: June 18, 2001

Art Unit: 1656

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

Examiner: W. Moore

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 30, 2007, for which a response was due on February 30, 2008. Given that it is unclear whether the Office Action is a final Office Action since the Office Action Summary indicates it is non-final while the conclusion on page 9 indicates that it is final, this response is filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and a petition for a three-months' extension of time. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 2 of this paper.